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19  
20         **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
21         **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

22     VIA LICENSING CORPORATION,

23         Case No. 4:18-cv-01206-YGR

24                 Plaintiff,

25         **STIPULATION AND ~~[PROPOSED]~~**  
26         **ORDER RE: PRODUCTION OF**  
27         **DOCUMENTS AND**  
28         **ELECTRONICALLY STORED**  
29         **INFORMATION**

30                 v.

31     HISENSE INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD and  
32     HISENSE USA CORPORATION,

33                 Defendants.

1      Upon the stipulation of the parties, the Court ORDERS as follows:

2      **I.      PURPOSE**

3                1.      This Stipulation and Order Regarding Production of Documents and  
4      Electronically Stored Information (the “ESI Protocol”) will govern the production of documents  
5      and electronically stored information (“ESI”) by the parties in the above-captioned action as a  
6      supplement to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court’s Guidelines for the Discovery of  
7      Electronically Stored Information, and any other applicable orders and rules.

8      **II.      MODIFICATION**

9                2.      This ESI Protocol may be modified in the Court’s discretion or by  
10     stipulation.

11     **III.      PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING AS PAPER**

12                3.      The following specifications govern the production of documents  
13     originating as paper:

14                4.      **TIFFs.** Documents should be produced as single-page, black and white,  
15     group IV TIFFs imaged at 300 dpi. Bates numbers, confidentiality designations (in accordance  
16     with the protective order governing the case), and redactions (to the extent they are necessary)  
17     should be burned into the image. TIFF image files should be provided in an “Images” folder.

18                5.      **Unitizing Documents.** In scanning paper documents, distinct documents  
19     should not be merged into a single record, and single documents should not be split into multiple  
20     records (*i.e.*, paper documents should be logically unitized). As an example, the documents  
21     contained in a binder should be produced in the same order in which they appear in the binder.  
22     The parties will undertake reasonable efforts to have their vendors logically unitize documents  
23     correctly, maintain parent-child relationships, and will commit to address situations of  
24     improperly unitized documents.

25                6.      **OCR.** The producing party shall use optical character recognition  
26     (“OCR”) to digitize the text of documents originating as paper. Text shall be provided on a  
27     document-level in an appropriately formatted text file (.txt) that is named to match the first Bates  
28     number of the document. Text files should be provided in a “Text” folder. To the extent that a

1 document is redacted, the text files should not contain the text of the redacted portions.

2           **7. Unique IDs.** Each TIFF image should have a unique filename, which  
3 corresponds to the Bates number of that page. The filename should not contain any blank spaces  
4 and should be zero-padded (*e.g.*, ABC-000001), taking into consideration the estimated number  
5 of pages to be produced. If a Bates number or set of Bates numbers is skipped in a production,  
6 the producing party will so note in a cover letter or production log accompanying the production.

7           **8. Data Load Files.** Documents should be provided with an Opticon Cross-  
8 Reference File and Concordance data load file using standard Concordance delimiters:

9           a.     Field Separator: ASCII character 20 (“¶”);  
10           b.     Quote: ASCII character 254 (“þ”); and  
11           c.     New Line: ASCII character 174 (“®”).

12           Concordance-compatible image and data load files should be provided in a “Data”  
13 folder.

14           **9. Metadata.** Appendix 1 sets forth the minimum metadata fields that must  
15 be produced to the extent that metadata exists for a particular document. To the extent that such  
16 metadata does not exist, is not reasonably accessible or available, or would be unduly  
17 burdensome to collect, nothing in this ESI Protocol shall require any party to extract, capture,  
18 collect, or produce such data.

19 **IV. PRODUCTION OF EMAIL AND ESI**

20           **10. TIFFs.** Documents should be produced as single-page, black and white,  
21 group IV TIFFs imaged at 300 dpi. The document’s original orientation should be maintained  
22 (*i.e.*, portrait to portrait and landscape to landscape). Bates numbers, confidentiality designations  
23 (in accordance with the protective order governing the above-captioned action), and redactions  
24 (to the extent they are necessary) should be burned into the image. TIFF image files should be  
25 provided in an “Images” folder.

26           **11. Extracted Text Files.** For each electronic document, a text file (not OCR  
27 text) should be provided along with the TIFF. The full text of native files should be extracted  
28 directly from the native file and should be delivered in an appropriately formatted text file (.txt)

1 that is named to match the first Bates number of the document. Text files should be provided in  
2 a “Text” folder. To the extent that a document is redacted, the text files should not contain the  
3 text of the redacted portions.

4           12. **Unique IDs.** Each image should have a unique filename, which  
5 corresponds to the Bates number of that page. The filename should not contain any blank spaces  
6 and should be zero-padded (*e.g.*, ABC-000001), taking into consideration the estimated number  
7 of pages to be produced. If a Bates number or set of Bates numbers is skipped in a production,  
8 the producing party will so note in a cover letter or production log accompanying the production.

9           13. **Parent-Child Relationships.** The relationship between attachments,  
10 enclosures, embedded files, and/or exhibits to any parent document shall be preserved. The  
11 child-document(s) should be consecutively produced immediately after the parent-document,  
12 except attachments withheld on privilege grounds, which will be indicated on the associated  
13 privilege log and the withheld attachment will be replaced with a slip sheet stating “Document  
14 withheld for privilege.”

15           14. **Native Format.** The processed native for all spreadsheets (*i.e.*, MS Excel,  
16 .CSV, or similar) and electronic information containing audio or visual components should be  
17 produced and linked to the database by the above metadata field “Path to Native File.” The  
18 requesting party may ask for certain other documents and/or databases initially produced in their  
19 petrified (TIFF or PDF) format to be produced in their native format in the event that the  
20 petrified format is not reasonably usable, and the parties will meet and confer in good faith  
21 regarding the form of production of that information. The requesting party shall identify the  
22 documents by their Bates numbers and the documents should be produced in their unaltered  
23 native format, subject to any meet and confer discussions conducted by the parties.

24           15. To the extent that a native spreadsheet must be redacted, the producing  
25 party may redact either the native file or produce TIFF images with burned in redactions in lieu  
26 of a Native File and TIFF placeholder image. If redacting TIFF images, the producing party  
27 should make reasonable efforts to ensure that it, or its ediscovery vendor, (1) reveals hidden cells  
28 prior to converting the document to TIFF; (2) clears any filters that may conceal information;

1       (3) adjusts column widths so that numbers do not appear as “#####”; (4) ensures that column  
2 and row headings print; and (5) ensures that the tab name appears in the header or footer of the  
3 document.

4                   **16. Request for Native Files.** Other than as specifically set forth above, a  
5 producing party need not produce documents in native format. If good cause exists for the  
6 receiving party to request production of certain documents in native format, the receiving party  
7 may request production in native format by providing (1) a list of the Bates numbers of  
8 documents it requests to be produced in native format; and (2) an explanation of the need for  
9 reviewing such documents in native format. The producing party shall not unreasonably deny  
10 such requests, but will meet and confer in good faith with the requesting party concerning the  
11 format of production. Each document produced in response to such requests shall be produced  
12 with a “Link to Native Path” entry in the data load file indicating the relative file path to each  
13 Native File on the production media, and all extracted text and applicable metadata fields set  
14 forth in paragraph 21, subject to any meet and confer discussions conducted by the parties.

15                   **17. Track Changes and Comments.** To the extent that a document contains  
16 tracked changes or comments, those tracked changes and comments should be preserved when  
17 images of the document are created.

18                   **18. Password Protected Files.** The producing party shall produce passwords  
19 for any non-privileged password-protected files to the extent the passwords are reasonably  
20 available.

21                   **19. System Files.** Common system and program files as defined by the NIST  
22 library (which is commonly used by-discovery vendors to exclude system and program files  
23 from document review and production) need not be processed, reviewed, or produced.

24                   **20. Data Load Files.** Documents should be provided with an Opticon Cross-  
25 Reference File and Concordance data load file using standard Concordance delimiters:

- 26                   a.        Field Separator: ASCII character 20 (“¶”);
- 27                   b.        Quote: ASCII character 254 (“þ”); and
- 28                   c.        New Line: ASCII character 174 (“®”).

1                   Concordance-compatible image and data load files should be provided in a “Data”  
2 folder. Parties have the option to exchange sample load files. If this exchange occurs, the  
3 receiving party will have 14 days to respond with load file change requests. Nothing in this ESI  
4 Protocol will limit the parties from discussing load file changes throughout the course of the  
5 litigation.

6                   21.   **Metadata.** Appendix 1 sets forth the minimum metadata fields that must  
7 be produced to the extent that metadata exists for a particular document. To the extent that such  
8 metadata does not exist, is not reasonably accessible or available, or would be unduly  
9 burdensome to collect, nothing in this ESI Protocol shall require any party to extract, capture,  
10 collect or produce such data. The parties are not obligated to populate manually any metadata  
11 fields.

12                   22.   **Deduplication.** Documents may be globally de-duplicated at the family-  
13 group level.

14 **V. PRODUCTION OF DATABASES AND OTHER STRUCTURED DATA**

15                   23.   If a database or other source of structured data contains responsive  
16 information, the parties should meet and confer to determine a mutually agreeable format for  
17 producing the database or other structured data or an appropriate alternative means for producing  
18 information sought from the structured data.

19 **VI. PRODUCTION OF AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS**

20                   24.   If audio and/or video recordings are responsive, the parties should meet  
21 and confer to determine a mutually agreeable format for producing the audio and/or video  
22 recording.

23 **VII. PROCESSING OF THIRD-PARTY DOCUMENTS**

24                   25.   A party that issues a non-party subpoena (“Issuing Party”) shall include a  
25 copy of this ESI Protocol with the subpoena and request that the non-party produce documents in  
26 accordance with the specifications set forth herein.

27                   26.   The Issuing Party may request that the non-party simultaneously produce  
28 documents to the Issuing Party and all other parties. If the non-party produces documents only

1 to the Issuing Party, to the extent practical given the data volume, productions by a non-party  
2 should be produced by the Issuing Party to all other parties within seven days of the non-party's  
3 production to the Issuing Party.

4 27. Nothing in this ESI Protocol is intended to or should be interpreted as  
5 narrowing, expanding, or otherwise affecting the rights of the parties or non-parties to object to a  
6 subpoena.

7 **VIII. DOCUMENTS PROTECTED FROM DISCOVERY**

8 28. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d), the production of a  
9 privileged or work-product-protected document, whether inadvertent or otherwise, is not a  
10 waiver of privilege or protection from discovery in this case or in any other federal or state  
11 proceeding. For example, the mere production of privileged or work-product-protected  
12 documents in this case as part of a mass production is not itself a waiver in this case or in any  
13 other federal or state proceeding.

14 29. Communications subject to a claim of privilege that post-date the filing of  
15 the complaint need not be placed on a privilege log.

16 30. The parties shall meet and confer regarding the scope and timing for  
17 identifying documents or other information withheld from production on the basis of the  
18 attorney-client privilege or any other applicable privilege or protection from disclosure.

19 **IX. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

20 31. The following specifications govern the production of all documents  
21 regardless of source, unless otherwise noted in this ESI Protocol:

22 32. **Custodian or Originating Source.** The custodian or originating source  
23 shall be identified in the Custodian field of the database load files. Documents found in the  
24 possession of a natural person (or on a natural person's hardware or storage media) should be  
25 produced in such fashion as to identify the natural person. Documents found in the possession of  
26 a department, group, entity, or other common facility (e.g., office, file room, archive, network  
27 storage, file share, back-up, hard drive, etc.) should be produced in such a fashion as to identify  
28 the department, group, entity, or facility. A producing party shall use a uniform description of a

1 particular custodian across productions.

2                   **33. Color.** Documents containing color need not be produced in color in the  
3 first instance. However, if good cause exists for the receiving party to request production of  
4 certain documents in color, the receiving party may request production of such documents in  
5 color by providing (1) a list of the Bates numbers of documents it requests to be produced in  
6 color format; and (2) an explanation of the need for production in color format. The producing  
7 party shall not unreasonably deny such requests, but will meet and confer in good faith with the  
8 requesting party concerning the format of production.

9                   **34. Foreign Language.** Foreign language text files and metadata should be  
10 delivered with the correct encoding to enable the preservation of the documents' original  
11 language.

12                   **35. Production Media.** The preferred means of producing documents is via  
13 secure FTP or a secure file sharing site. However, documents may also be produced via CD,  
14 DVD, thumb drive, or hard drive if the size of the production exceeds the size limitations  
15 applicable to the producing party's secure FTP or file sharing site.

16                   **36. Encrypted Data.** To the extent data is encrypted before it is produced,  
17 the producing party shall contemporaneously transmit the credentials necessary to decrypt the  
18 data.

19                   **37. Non-Waiver.** Nothing in this ESI Protocol shall be interpreted to require  
20 disclosure of irrelevant information or relevant information protected by the attorney-client  
21 privilege, work-product doctrine, or any other applicable privilege or immunity. The parties do  
22 not waive any objections to the production, discoverability, admissibility, or confidentiality of  
23 documents.

24                   **38. Protective Order.** All productions are subject to the Stipulated Protective  
25 Order entered by the Court in this Action.

26 **X. MEET AND CONFER**

27                   **39. Good Faith Resolution of Disputes.** The parties shall make good faith  
28 efforts to comply with and resolve any differences concerning compliance with this ESI

1      Protocol. If a producing party, notwithstanding their good faith efforts, cannot comply with any  
2      material aspect of this ESI Protocol or if compliance with such material aspect would be  
3      unreasonable, such party shall inform the requesting party in writing a reasonable time before the  
4      date of production as to why compliance with the ESI Protocol is impossible or unreasonable.  
5      No party may seek relief from the Court concerning compliance with the ESI Protocol unless it  
6      has conferred in good faith with the affected parties.

7                  40.     The parties agree that in responding to an initial Federal Rule of Civil  
8      Procedure 34 request, or earlier if appropriate, they will meet and confer about methods to search  
9      ESI in order to identify ESI that is subject to production in discovery and filter out ESI that is not  
10     subject to discovery.

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12                  **IT IS SO STIPULATED**, through Counsel of Record.

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/s/ Laura Kabler Oswell

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22                  *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

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/s/ Robert J. Benson

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29                  *Attorneys for Defendants*

## **ATTESTATION**

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), the filer of this document attests that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from the other signatories above.

Dated: June 20, 2018

/s/ Laura Kabler Oswell  
Laura Kabler Oswell

\* \* \*

**IT IS ORDERED** that the forgoing Agreement is **APPROVED**.

Dated: June 21, 2018

THE HONORABLE YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE